Delayed reaction to MMK approach of month or so ago MW 7/30/74

Lesar and I had spent the last part of the office discussing various matters. I had suggested that we meet there because there were some things to take up with Bud. It turned out he was out of town. Jim and Bud's secretary, Carmen, decided they had to take me to lunhh. We got to talking because Carmen had some questions about professed reactions to me, including one that I never get along with anyone and can't be trusted to try.

Jim laughed and said it was a self-justification. He explained to her that there had been several CTIA disasters because I had not been consulted and that I had prevented others where I had learned of them in time.

I told her that I had learned that if there is no certain way of dealing with nuts the one possibility was first get their attention and then unload with force. And that it had worked on her boss, which was the real basis for his attitude.

Jim then said what he had not told me earlier, that he had gone to TS at my suggestion (earlier memo on this reports background on this) just yesterday, the first chance he had had, that he got the friendliest greeting, all the little time the guy could spare, and a very favorable reflection of the attitude toward me. That of all who had been there and of whom he had heard I was the one who was solid, straightforward, backed everything up with solid evidence, and distinguished between what was solidly proven and what was not even in conversation. The word used is "impressive." And I had had to be quite straightforward when he asked for evaluations of some of their own people. I met this head on and in each case offered a basis for what I said. I knew when I did it that it could be very dangerous but I also knew it was the only honest way, the only way to be able to meet opposition from those types in the future, and the obligation I had to assume if there was ever to be any hope in the future. We did not identify this man but Jim gave her to understand that he holds an important post.

(When we returned to the office I laid out for Jim what I regard as the real political problems still remaining and not to build too many hopes. But I was gratified that the reception I thought I'd gotten was what the guy says.)

After we finished what we had to do Jim offered to drive me to where I'd parked my car for the day because he had to go in that direction and it was hot. While driving he suggested that we drop in on the Nader FOI lawyers with whom he has had much to do. I've never met them. After the spectro CA decision Jim had asked the junior one for advice and it was "get yourself a new client," which is ambiguous. (I took it to be a reference to the subject, not to me.) When we walked in and Jim introduced " began by saying I wanted them not to credit the rumor that I had two heads. Maybe the one was big, but count. They laughed and out long meeting went very well. They reflected no antagonist attitude toward the subject at all and I'll be surprised if the senior one is not up here soon because I told him and Jim confirmed that the nature of the material I have is more significant on the federal word simply because they are hung up and I have them dead to rights and they conceive no choice and have to be as dishonest as they will not be on other subjects. I said that I am building a record where at some point one of these guys may face a choice between making a clean breast and the yawning doors. And if we get to this point the prospects of freedom of information would be much improved.

What surprised and pleased is their reflection of MMK's present FOI attitude: if there is serious Hruska-Nixon problem in conference MMK is prepared to walk out. But they think he can control enough of the conference. They agree a veto is certain. I suggested that what I have can make it more difficult and susotaining it less easy Conference to meet 3/6 but may not finish then. I said I ma prepared to give them copies of the transcript itself and jeopardize that work and if it is as late ~~tim~~ as the following week I will have the book printed except for the last sign and cover, which may not be ready, and let them have a copy for each member. No decision. The real hangup, I think, will be on the investigative file exemption. I asked them to believe that it is because the dirty work is not all Hoover and the FBI will not be able to take disclosures that can be forced. I said I have enough, including destruction of evidence by it.